

Angola

Savimbi warns Soviets, Gulf Oil

The following is taken from a televised interview granted by Dr. Jonas Savimbi, leader of the pro-Western UNITA rebels (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) to columnists Roland Evans and Robert Novak, Feb. 1 in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Evans: *The Washington Post*, Dr. Savimbi, ran a long article by a liberal reporter named Sanford Unger the other day in which he said, "U.S. aid to you, your movement, would only prolong, not shorten, the war." How do you answer that criticism, Dr. Savimbi?

Dr. Savimbi: It is the contrary. Because of the Clark Amendment, the Russians had a green card to intervene in our country, and from 12,000 Cubans, now we have 45,000. If you were present, I think the Cubans and the Russians will not extend their domination to our country. It is your absence which makes the Russians more daring.

Mr. Novak: Dr. Savimbi, there has been a lot of publicity, naturally, in this country about the Gulf Oil operations at Cabende in Angola which supplies a very badly needed capital foreign exchange for the Angolan communist government. You have not attacked those installations. Why not?

Dr. Savimbi: One, it is very far from our aegis (agents), but we are in a position to do it. I want to make a distinction. One, is the American citizens that we don't want to harm. The other thing is the Gulf Oil, that we were pleased with the statement of the Assistant Secretary, Dr. Crocker, when he said that they should just know that they are in a very critical area, where there is a civil war going on. I think this is a warning from the administration to them that they have to take risks and I think it is wrong, morally wrong, for the Gulf to pay for the Cubans to kill the indigenous people of Angola.

Mr. Novak: You're saying that in the future, as the war spreads, it's possible that the Gulf Oil installations will be attacked by your forces, the installations?

Dr. Savimbi: It is what I'm saying.

Mr. Novak: Now one other question, the Gulf people claim that they are teaching capitalism, private enterprise, democracy, to the Angolan workers. Is there any truth to that, do you think?

Dr. Savimbi: I think—let us say that they are not telling the truth because how you teach capitalism in a communist country. Let me say that they are exploiting oil and that they are paying the Angolans. That's good. But to say they are teaching capitalism, that's wrong.

Mr. Evans: Dr. Savimbi, let me quote Jonas Savimbi, to you, sir. "The MPLA," that's the Marxist government in Luanda, in Angola, "The MPLA government pays Castro \$1,000 a month for each Cuban soldier in Angola for a total of \$480 million a year." How much of that money, sir, comes from American oil companies?

Dr. Savimbi: Gulf is paying \$1,700,000,000 a year to the MPLA, and now they are already at the point of \$2 billion a year.

Mr. Evans: If that installation, if the revenue, the monies that come from those oil operations in Angola, were denied to the Marxist government, would your movement be vitally affected in a positive way?

Dr. Savimbi: I think that if we cut the oil, whatever the way, that it will shorten the war.

The following is excerpted from remarks by Dr. Savimbi before the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Jan. 31, 1985.

We had a traditional government which worked well. Only the intervention of 12,000 Cubans has stopped the government from functioning. People say, "But now you are getting support from South Africa." When you fight a war, you get support from wherever it comes. But also, we are not only getting support from South Africa. I'm getting support from many Black, independent African countries. . . .

Do we in UNITA condone apartheid? No. How, as a Black man, a Black leader, can I accept apartheid? No. And I think apartheid is being dismantled at home and abroad. But the choice of saying, "Let us first deal with apartheid, then next we deal with Soviet expansionism"—to say that is agreeable, to my mind it is not, because if we find it wrong for the white South Africans to deny opportunity to Black people in South Africa, so they have to work so that they will be able—all groups in South Africa to work together and to share their own destiny, it is also not right—we condemn that white Cubans, white Russians that they should dominate, oppress, kill the indigenous people from Angola.

Furthermore, does South Africa have any possibility of expansion? On my own understanding, no. But the Soviet Union is the most important empire at this time in the world. And Gorbachov, since he came to power, we saw him acting more aggressively against the Afghans, against the Cambodians, against the Eritreans, and against us.

If you set your priorities, at first is apartheid, then it is the Cubans and the Russians in Angola, you may get them in the Cape. It will be too late.